

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12 are amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 8 and to further recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Figs. 2, 9 and 10; page 2, lines 13-16; page 3, lines 16-21; page 6, lines 1-12; page 20, line 20 - page 22, line 5; and page 23, lines 14-25. Accordingly, claim 8 is canceled. Claim 4 is amended for better clarity.

Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed in, and to return an initialed a copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the August 25, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the August 25, 2005 Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herein.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,438,257 to Morimura et al. ("Morimura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,033 to Yano ("Yano"); and rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Morimura and Yano further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,320,394 to Tartagni ("Tartagni"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite a scan line that charges a reference capacitance. Independent claim 12 is amended to recite charging a reference capacitance via a scan line. As is known in the art, such a feature enables high accuracy sensing. (See the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 13-16; page 3, lines 16-21; and page 6, lines 1-5 and 11-12. Morimura, Yano and Tartagni, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest this feature or the advantages thereof.

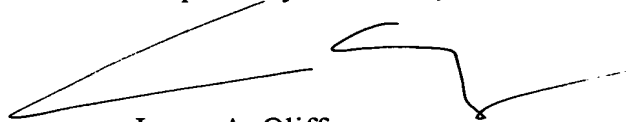
In particular, Morimura discloses a device for accurately extracting a small change in capacitance. See Figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 8-10; and col. 5, line 60 - col. 6, line 18. Yano discloses a capacitance detecting apparatus capable of firmly sampling electric charge charged to capacitances by a simple circuit constitution. See Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 32-40; and col. 6, lines 11-27. Tartagni discloses a sensor for measuring small distances. See Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 61-63; and col. 2, line 60 - col. 3, line 17. Morimura, Yano and Tartagni, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a scan line that charges a reference capacitance, or charging a reference capacitance via a scan line. Therefore, Morimura, Yano and Tartagni do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 12, and claims 2-7, 9-11 and 13 depending therefrom.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Copy of August 25, 2005 Form PTO-1449

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